

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SGEN

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE - UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS (UNHCHR)

REF: USUN 4798

1. DEPT NOTES FROM WIGGINS/FERGUSON MEMO, COPY OF WHICH WAS SUPPLIED DEPT, THAT THIRD COMMITTEE SECRETARY LUTEM HAS PROPOSED THAT BECAUSE OF PRESS OF TIME HIGH COMMISSIONER ITEM BE DEFERRED. DEPT RECALLS THAT AT BEGINNING OF SESSION THIRD COMMITTEE ALLOTTED FOUR MEETINGS TO ITEM, WHICH WAS TO BE TAKEN UP AS FOURTEENTH OF EIGHTEEN ITEMS. USDEL SHOULD CONCERT WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED DELS AND INSIST THAT THIRD COMMITTEE ALLOT ADEQUATE TIME TO DISCUSSION OF ITEM. IF SHORTAGE OF TIME REQUIRES MODIFICATION OF TIMETABLE AS LAID DOWN AT BEGINNING OF SESSION, USDEL SHOULD TAKE POSITION THAT CUTS IN TIME ALLOTTED TO REMAINING ITEMS BE FAIRLY APPORTIONED SO THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION WILL NOT BE TOTALLY DEFERRED.

2. RE TACTICS, DEPT WOULD FAVOR EEC-9 APPROACH REPORTED REFTEL. IN VIEW SHORTAGE OF TIME, WE THINK IT UNREALISTIC
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TO ENVISION ADOPTION OF SUBSTANTIVE RES SUCH AS SWEDES

INTEND O PROPOSE. WE HOPE THAT SWEDES WILL NOT INSIST
ON THIS COURSE, BECAUSE PUSHING SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION TO
VOTE WITHOUT THOROUGH DEBATE MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN ITS

REJECTION. PREFERABLE RESULT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE
TO SECURE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION
WHICH WILL PLACE ISSUE BEFORE ASSEMBLY AT NEXT SESSION.
WE ARE ATTRACTED TO EEC-9 IDEA THAT UNHCHR PROPOSAL BE
INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA AS PAR OF BROADER ITEM ON
IMPROVING FUNCTIONING OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY.

3. DEPT REALIZES THAT STANDARD TACTICS OF OPPONENTS OF
HIGH COMMISSIONER IDEA WHICH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY
FOLLOWED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS, VIZ. TO SECURE POSTPONE-
MENT OF ITEM DUE TO LACK OF TIME, ARE LIKELY TO SUCCEED
ONCE AGAIN. WE NEVERTHELESS THINK THAT PREFERABLE COURSE
IS TO FIND WAYS TO KEEP ISSUE BEFORE ASSEMBLY IN EXPECTA-
TION THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER IDEA WILL GRADUALLY GAIN
ADHERENTS. WE WILL PLAN AT NEXT UNGA TO ENCOURAGE MAJOR
DEBATE ON MEANS OF IMPROVING FUNCTIONING OF UN HUMAN
RIGHTS MACHINERY. KISSINGER

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